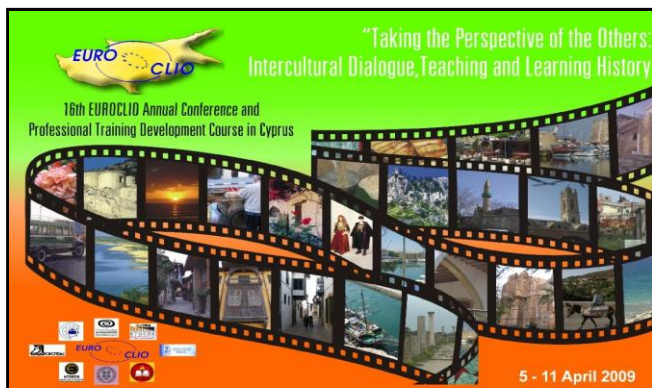




**April 13, 2009, No. 92**

## **Nicosia Hosts International History Educators' Conference**

With support from ACT, the European Association of History Teachers (EUROCLIO) held its Annual Conference in Nicosia Cyprus from April 5-11, 2009. Eight organizations, from both the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities hosted the conference's more than 130 participants from 30 different countries. The conference offered interactive lectures and workshops by Cypriot and international experts from the Council of Europe and several universities throughout Europe. This 16<sup>th</sup> EUROCLIO Professional Training & Development Conference, *"Taking the Perspective of the Other: Intercultural Dialogue and Teaching and Learning History"* invited participants to exchange and debate about the way the Cypriot example of intercultural dialogue in a divided society relates to similar experiences in other countries. EUROCLIO is proud that Cypriot history educators' organizations and teacher trade unions from across the divide gave such a powerful example on what and how history education can contribute to the advancement of society—in a local, regional, European and international context.



## **SAVE Water by Designing a Park: Competition Gets Cypriots Involved in Water-wise Landscaping**



SAVE launched a park design competition to help motivate Cypriots to get involved and informed about water-wise landscaping. Through a partnership with a local community, the competition will raise overall awareness of xeriscaping—an approach to gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental irrigation. Contestants will be asked to create a complete park design for a 300 square meter site; the winner will earn a monetary prize and see their idea brought to life as a model “eco-park” that will serve as a tangible demonstration of how using plants acclimatized to the arid climate of the Mediterranean need not compromise garden aesthetics. Apart from soliciting designs from budding landscape architects and other home-gardening enthusiasts, this park project has mobilized the community in which the park will be located and several local firms around the issue of water conservation. The community will undertake the park's maintenance and upkeep, while local businesses are donating the plants, trees, mulch and a water tank.

*The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.*

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### *Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises*

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As part of its continued efforts to provide agricultural extension services and build local capacity in this area, EDGE provided on-site training and support to the participants in the caper and artichoke pilot activities as well as technical assistance to the potato, artichoke and pomegranate growers interested in acquiring GLOBALGAP certification. EDGE organized a second meeting of leaders from both sides in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector. Beyond discussing the overall challenges facing the sector, the group identified possible areas of collaboration across the Green Line since cooperation in the ICT sector requires no permits or other bureaucratic processes under the EU Green Line Trade Regulation. EDGE also organized a discussion on US franchising opportunities that brought together local business people and the Embassy's Commercial Officer.

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### *Supporting Activities that Value the Environment*

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With small grant assistance from SAVE, a local NGO—Cyprus Action for Recycling and Environment (CARE)—has initiated a paper recycling program in schools and with large private organizations. In addition to promoting public awareness, the objective of this pilot program is to collect the data needed to design a paper recycling agenda that is viable long-term. SAVE conducted its third steering committee meeting with the water managers who are planning for the upcoming “Water Summit”.

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### *Action for Cooperation and Trust*

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Of the four new confidence building measures announced in the press on April 12, ACT will be supporting three. An international member of the ACT team will be serving on the Cultural Heritage Committee as a facilitator. Although the details have yet to be worked out, proposals are expected for the specific actions to be carried in the areas cultural heritage protection, water saving and crime prevention. In addition to finalizing contracts for all of the recently approved new initiatives, ACT has invited tenders for the restoration of the Armenian Church and Monastery in old Nicosia and is wrapping up several cultural heritage restoration projects including the Peristerona Bicomunal Center, the Profit Elias Monastery in Ayia Marina-Skyloura (a Maronite monument), and the bicomunal Daycare Center for the Severely Disabled in Nicosia.

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### *Capacity Development and Training*

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Settled in its refurbished work space and having established good working relationships with key local partners, CDP is finalizing the design of its first interventions in the areas of: vocational and technical education; bank anti-money laundering compliance; tourist guide training; and bank anti-money laundering compliance.



*USAID Representative Alan Davis led a discussion of how to improve the standards and capacity of the Turkish Cypriot banking sector, particularly through training programs, with over fifteen bankers and the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Jonathan Cohen on April 2.*

## News from Nicosia

### April 2

President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met to wrap up discussions on "EU Matters." The next round of discussions will focus on to economic issues.

### April 12

Christofias and Talat announced that they will implement four Confidence-Building Measures: a) easier passage for ambulances through the crossing points; b) measures to save water, financed by UNDP; c) establishment of an information council and exchange of information on crime; d) protection of cultural heritage.

## OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
  - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
  - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
  - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.
  - The **Capacity Development and Training Project (CDP)** complements other USG-funded programs in Cyprus by providing capacity development and training in critical areas.